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Coosa River Baptist Association

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v. 21. 1881

v. 22. 1882

MINUTES

ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OF THE

THIRTY-THIRD ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

COOSA RIVER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH THE

OXFORD CHURCH, CALHOUN CO., ALA.

September 15th, 16th & 17th, 1886.

MINUTES

ALABAMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OF THE

THIRTY-THIRD ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

GOVERNMENT HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Held with the

OXFORD CHURCH, CALHOUN CO., ALA.

September 1901, 1902 & 1903

PROCEEDINGS

Oxford, Ala., Sept. 15th, 1886.
Saturday, 11 o'clock A. M.

The introductory Sermon was preached by Rev. J. J. D. Renfro from II Peter, 2 Chapter, 9th verse.

11 o'clock, P. M.

The Delegates met in the Baptist Church and the Association was temporarily organized by calling Rev. K. T. Smyth to the Chair, and requesting Jno. W. Bishop, to act as Clerk.

The letters of the Churches were read by Brethren ARNER WILLIAMS and J. H. JOINER and the names of the Delegates enrolled as follows:

TALLADEGA.—Rev. O. Welch, S. Morris, James Mallory.

REDFERT.—Rev. Wm. McCain, John N. Sims, James S. Meadows.*

COOSA VALLEY.—Rev. Jesse A. Collins,* Paul Castleberry, S. Kilgore.

MT. ZION.—B. M. Fluker, H. S. Darby,* W. B. Gowan.*

KYMLUGA.—T. S. Morrison, Charles Colcough.

HRPSZRAH.—Royal Allen,* S. Florence, F. M. Allen.*

BIG SPRING.—B. J. Conner.

OXFORD.—Rev. E. T. Smyth, Rev. Jas. Woodruff, Rev. A. M. Spalding.

PLEASANT GROVE.—Wiley Ogietree, J. K. Elliott, J. B. Wood.*

SPRING CREEK.—W. E. Posey, W. W. Kidd.*

TALLADEGA TOWNSHIP.—Rev. J. J. D. Renfro, Jno Henderson,* W. R. Stoeck.

SALEM.—J. H. Joiner, (Ald.)

SALEM.—Rev. Wm. C. Mynatt, Jno B. Mynatt, Wm. M. Richey.

MACEDONIA.—B. C. Wallace, J. Maudine, J. H. Posey, J. H. Martin.

NEW HORIZON.—Rev. M. Hendrix, Rev. James K. Holt, E. Trust.

COLD WATER.—B. W. Mattison, B. Murphy, R. Hughey.

ANTIOCH.—Rev. S. G. Jenkins, Josiah Hawkins, F. W. Smith.

PALMERSBURGH.—T. E. Pope, S. B. Glazner, Abner Williams.

MT. SHARON.—M. H. Favor, R. J. Thomas, Wm. B. Hamett.

FT. WILLIAMS.—D. D. Oden,* Dan'l Wallis, Thomas Goodman.*

BLUE EYE.—T. R. Burns,* A. S. Acker, James Embury,* W. Trust.

The Association was permanently organized by the election of Rev. J. J. D. Renfro, Moderator; Jno W. Bishop, Clerk; and Jas K. Elliott, Treasurer. The Moderator announced the body ready for business.

Mt. Zion Church of Calhoun county was received into the membership of this Association.

Ministering Brethren invited to seats.

Rev. W. H. McJrrosh, President of the Board of Domestic Missions, Marion, Ala., and Rev. A. T. SPALDING, representing the agent of the Board of Foreign Missions, were invited to seats in their official capacities.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Letter from Canaan Association.

Boiling Spring Association.

Ten Island

Also represented by the following delegation: Rev. P. S. MONTGOMERY, N. Conn; Rev. D. H. WILLIAMS, N. H.; J. W. WHITESIDES, and Cary Association by Rev. W. T. DAVIS and G. B. JENKINS; State Convention by Rev. J. T. D. BENFORD, with copies of minutes. The following committees were announced:

Preaching: Rev. E. T. Smyth, Rev. Jas. Woodruff, James Mallory, W. R. Stone, Wm. M. Richer.
Business: Rev. Wm. McCain, Rev. S. G. Jenkins, B. W. Mattison.
Finance: J. K. Elliott, J. W. Whatley, S. B. Glasen.
Documents: Rev. O. Welch, Rev. E. T. Smyth, W. R. Stone.
 Adjourned until 8 1/2 o'clock, A. M. Monday.

SABBATH

8 1/2 o'clock the Pulpit of the Baptist Church was occupied by Rev. OLIVER WELCH; 11 o'clock by Rev. W. H. McIntosh; 2 1/2 P. M. by Rev. A. T. SPALDING; and 7 1/2 P. M. by Rev. Wm. McCain.

At the hour of 11 the Pulpit of the Methodist Church was occupied by Rev. Jno B. MYNATT; and 2 P. M. by Rev. PAUL CASTLEBERRY, each for the benefit of the Colored People.

MONDAY, 17th

The Association met at 8 1/2 A. M. Prayer by Rev. M. Hendrix.

Proceedings read and approved.

RETURNED CORRESPONDENCE

Ten Island Association: Rev. Paul Castleberry, Rev. M. Hendrix, Rev. J. D. Renfro; Rev. Wm. McCain, W. R. Stone.

Cary Association: Rev. S. G. Jenkins, Josiah Hawkins.

Boiling Springs Association: Rev. S. G. Jenkins, E. T. Smyth, B. W. Smith.

Shelby Association: Rev. Paul Castleberry, C. R. Cross, W. E. Posey, Jr., Rev. R. Holt, Rev. M. Hendrix.

Canaan Association: Rev. J. A. Collins, W. W. Kidd.

Tallahatchie Association: Rev. J. D. Renfro, Rev. E. T. Smyth, T. Turk.

State Convention: Rev. J. D. Renfro, Dan. Wallace, Rev. S. G. Jenkins, Rev. E. T. Smyth, O. G. Samuel, W. S. Chapman, James Headen, Jno. W. Bishop, Abner Williams, Rev. W. C. Mynatt, Rev. A. M. Spalding, Rev. Wm. McCain, J. H. Joiner.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

On Bible: Received and adopted. (Appendix "A")

On Foreign Missions: Received and adopted. (Appendix "B")

On Sabbath Schools: Received and adopted. (Appendix "C")

The hour of 11 having arrived, the association adjourned for Public Worship. Sermon by Rev. A. M. SPALDING. At the conclusion of the sermon Rev. A. T. SPALDING addressed the Congregation on the subject of Foreign Missions.

The Association met. Prayed by Rev PAUL CASTLEBERRY.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES, (continued.)

On Documents: Received and adopted. (Appendix "D")

On Domestic Missions: Rec'd and adopted with an amendment. (App E)

On Colored Membership: Received and adopted. (Appendix "F")

On Finance: Received and adopted. (Appendix "G")

Treasurer's Report: Received and adopted. (Appendix "H")

Rev A M SPALDING was elected to preach the Introductory Sermon at the meeting of the Association in 1867; Rev E T SMYTH, Alternate.

Also W BISHOP to prepare the Circular Letter; J J D RENFROE, Alternate. Talladega Town Church was selected as the place of holding the next session of the Association.

Committees to report at next session:

Sabbath Schools: J H Joiner, Jas Woodruff, D Patterson.

Bible Class: J B Mynatt, Rev S G Jenkins, Rev M Hendrix.

Domestic Missions: Rev E T Smyth, Jas Milroy, Warren Truss.

Foreign Missions: Rev A M Spalding, W C Mynatt, S G Jenkins.

Education: Jno W Bishop, O G Sammel, W S Chapman.

Temperance: Rev O Welch, D Wallace, W R Stone.

Colored People: Rev J A Collins, W W Kidd, Jas Headen.

On motion ASKED OF WILLIAMS the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That the minute fund be consolidated and if not sufficient to pay for printing the minutes of 1864 and 1866; then print the minutes of 1866, together with a synopsis of the minutes of 1864 on the first page.

The following resolution was submitted by Rev J J D RENFROE:

Resolved, That we are gratified to learn that the Howard College is again open for the reception of students under an efficient Faculty and that we recommend it to the patronage of the Public. Adopted.

Preamble and resolution proposed by ASKER WILLIAMS:

WHEREAS, A sound, enlightened christian literature is necessary to the proper development of christian graces; and an efficient auxiliary in elevating and promoting a high standard of morals; Therefore be it Resolved:

That we regard the "Christian Index & South Western Baptist," published at Atlanta; and the "Religious Herald," at Richmond; as eminently worthy the confidence and liberal support of our denomination and recommend our Brethren to extend to them a cordial and generous patronage.

On motion of Bro A WILLIAMS it was Resolved; That the thanks of this Association are due to the Brethren and Sisters of Oxford Baptist Church; as well as to the citizens of the town and vicinity, for their kindnesses and hospitality; and also to our Methodist and Presbyterian Brethren for the tender and use of their Churches;

It was agreed to pay the Clerk Twenty Dollars for his services; and he was authorized to draw on the Treasurer for the balance of the minute fund for printing the minutes.

On motion adjourned to meet at Talladega on 1867.

Prayer by Rev J E HOLT.

J J D RENFROE.

JNO W BISHOP. Moderator.

Clerk.

Also represented by the following delegation: Rev. P. S. MONTGOMERY, N. Cobb, Rev. D. P. Williams, Rev. E. J. Smith.

Tallahasatchie Association was represented by J. W. Whitesides, and Cary Association by Rev. W. T. Davis and G. B. Jenkins.

State Convention by Rev. J. J. D. Renfro, with copies of minutes.

The following committees were announced:

Preaching: Rev. E. T. Smyth, Rev. Jas. Woodruff, James Mallory, W. R. Stone, Wm. M. Richey.

Business: Rev. Wm. McCain, Rev. S. G. Jenkins, B. W. Mattison.

Finance: J. K. Elliott, J. W. Whitley, S. B. Glasener.

Documents: Rev. O. Welch, Rev. E. T. Smyth, W. R. Stone.

Adjourned until 8 1/2 o'clock, A. M. Monday.

SABBATH

9 1/2 o'clock the Pulpit of the Baptist Church was occupied by Rev. Oliver Welch; 11 o'clock by Rev. W. H. McIntosh; 2 1/2 P. M. by Rev. A. T. Spalding; and 7 1/2 P. M. by Rev. Wm. McCain.

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MONDAY, 17th

The Association met at 8 1/2 A. M. Prayer by Rev. M. Hendrix.

Proceedings read and approved.

RETURNED CORRESPONDENCE

Ten Island Association: Rev. Paul Castleberry, Rev. M. Hendrix, Rev. J. J. D. Renfro; Rev. Wm. McCain; W. R. Stone.

Cary Association: Rev. S. G. Jenkins, Josiah Hawkins.

Boiling Springs Association: Rev. S. G. Jenkins, E. T. Smyth, & B. W. Smith.

Shelby Association: Rev. Paul Castleberry, C. R. Crook, W. E. Posey, et.

Canadian Association: Rev. J. A. Collins, W. W. Kidd, T. J. Smith.

Tallahasatchie Association: Rev. J. J. D. Renfro, Rev. E. T. Smyth, T. Turk.

State Convention: Rev. J. J. D. Renfro, Dan'l Wallace, Rev. S. G. Jenkins,

Rev. E. T. Smyth, O. G. Samuel, W. S. Chapman, James

Hesden, Jno W. Bishop, Abner Williams, Rev. W. C.

Mynatt, Rev. A. M. Spalding, Rev. Wm. McCain, J. H.

Joiner.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

On Bible: Received and adopted. (Appendix "A").

On Foreign Missions: Received and adopted. (Appendix "B").

On Sabbath Schools: Received and adopted. (Appendix "C").

The hour of 11 having arrived, the association adjourned for Public Worship. Sermon by Rev. A. M. Spalding. At the conclusion of the sermon Rev. A. T. Spalding addressed the Congregation on the subject of Foreign Missions.

The Association met. Prayer by Rev PAUL CASTLEBERRY.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES, (continued.)

On Documents: Received and adopted. (Appendix "D")

On Domestic Missions: Rec'd and adopted with an amendment. (App E)

On Colored Membership: Received and adopted. (Appendix "F")

On Finance: Received and adopted. (Appendix "G")

Treasurer's Report: Received and adopted. (Appendix "H")

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Bro W BISHOP to prepare the Circular Letter; J J D RENFROE, Alternate. Talladega Town Church was selected as the place of holding the next session of the Association.

Committees to report at next session:

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Bible Class: J B Mynatt, Rev S G Jenkins, Rev M Hendrix.

Domestic Missions: Rev E T Smyth, Jas Mallory, Warren Truss.

Foreign Missions: Revs A M Spalding, W C Mynatt, S G Jenkins.

Education: Bro W Bishop, C G Samuel, W S Chapinan.

Temperance: Rev O Welch, D Wallace, W R Stone.

Colored People: Rev J A Collins, W W Kidd, Jas Headen.

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Resolved, That the minute fund be consolidated and if not sufficient to pay for printing the minutes of 1864 and 1866; then print the minutes of 1866, together with a synopsis of the minutes of 1864 on the first page.

The following resolution was submitted by Rev J J D RENFROE:

Resolved, That we are gratified to learn that the Howard College is again open for the reception of students under an efficient Faculty and that we recommend it to the patronage of the Public. Adopted.

Preamble and resolution proposed by ASHER WILLIAMS:

WHEREAS, A sound, enlightened christian literature is necessary to the proper development of christian graces; and an efficient auxiliary in elevating and promoting a high standard of morals; Therefore be it Resolved:

That we regard the "Christian Index & South Western Baptist," published at Atlanta; and the "Religious Herald," at Richmond; as eminently worthy the confidence and liberal support of our denomination and recommend our Brethren to extend to them a cordial and generous patronage.

On motion of Bro A WILLIAMS it was Resolved, That the thanks of this Association are due to the Brethren and Sisters of Oxford Baptist Church; as well as to the citizens of the town and vicinity, for their kindnesses and hospitality; and also to our Methodist and Presbyterian Brethren for the tender and use of their Churches.

It was agreed to pay the Clerk Twenty Dollars for his services; and he was authorized to draw on the Treasurer for the balance of the minute fund for printing the minutes.

On motion adjourned to meet at Talladega on _____ 1867.

Prayer by Rev J E HOLT.

J J D RENFROE, Moderator.

JNO. W. BISHOP, Clerk.

APPENDIX

THE BIBLE.

Your committee submit the following report in relation to the Bible, as we have it in King James' version. Christians understand it to be the word of the Lord as communicated by inspired men. The Bible: God's blessed Book. His Revelation to man long, long since. Indeed, the venerable antiquity and wonderful preservation of the books contained in the Bible is astonishing to us all. Some of which are far the most Ancient in the world. The indiscribable simplicity, and sublimity of their power and wisdom still attract the very worldly man's attention. They carry with them such characters of truth and command the respect of every unprejudiced mind. They open the mystery of creation; the nature of God's Angels and man; the immortality of the soul; the end for which we were made; the vanity of this world and the Glory of the next. In the Bible we see inspired shepherds, tradesmen and fishermen, surpassing the greatest Philosophers in the meekness, and wisdom, and sublimity of their doctrine. There we admire the purest morality in the world; there we discover a vein of Ecclesiastical History Theological truth running through a collection of sixty-six different books, written by various authors in different languages, during a space of above fifteen hundred years. And no discord. In the Bible we find the streams of spiritual knowledge; there the workings of the human heart is described in a manner that demonstrates the inspiration of the searcher of hearts; there we have a special and particular account of all our spiritual maladies, with their various symptoms and the method of a certain cure; a cure witnessed by departed saints, and is now enjoyed by thousands of good men, who would account it an honor to seal the truth of the scriptures with their own blood; there we meet with the noblest strains of penitential devotion, adapted to the various states of all travelers in Zion. When the Bible is faithfully opened by God's Ministers, and applied by His Spirit, it wounds and heals; kills and makes alive; alarms the careless; directs the lost; supports the tempted; strengthens the weak; comforts mourners; and nourishes pious souls. It is very remarkable the more humble and Holy people are, the more they read, admire, and value the Bible. And on the contrary, the more self-conceited, worldly-minded and wicked, the more they neglect the Bible. *Shall we be of the latter class?* The practice of reading the scriptures is recommended in the New Testament particularly. It is remarkable that Jesus began his public ministry by reading a portion of scripture, out of the Book of the Prophet Isaiah: Luke 4, 15 to 19. Paul tells Timothy to give attendance to reading; to exhortation; to doctrine. No subject or theme, that can be grasped by the mind of man, has, or can afford more pleasure and real joy than an examination of the word of God. And shall we neglect it? Let it be remembered that all we know of Gospel salvation is through the word, and that all its mighty elements are in the Revelation that God has given, and by His Spirit, rendered the means of Redemption to man. *It is the Heavenly seed.* God's word will not return to Him void, but shall prosper, and accomplish the end whereunto He sends it. How low,

sunk and degraded a people should we have been but for the word of God. And shall we neglect it? We are required to "Search the Scriptures." They testify of Jesus in whom we are slow to believe.

The Bible assures us of an eternal state, and offers us eternal life in that state; it contains the chart that describes it; and the charter that conveys it; direction in the way that leads to it; and the foundation on which the hope of it is built. We must search the Bible for Christ as the new and living way that leads to this end; we should search the Bible as if in hope of eternal life by that search, because it testifies of Jesus our best friend. Christ is a treasure hid in the scriptures. The Bible class is a most excellent way to search and make the scriptures impressive. The Bible read and studied by our people and denomination would bring the preachers to strict and correct quotations. There is a class that has ever been our persecutors. It is clear from present signs, that if we do not honor God's word and search it, it may make inroads among us and corrupt our pure Gospel, and persecute us, as formerly, to death. Our principles have ever subjected their votaries to Catholic slaughter, where they could support their cruel domination. The Bible read and studied by our denomination, and the God of that Bible are our only sure defense; it furnishes our people with the Heavenly armor, defensive and aggressive, to conquer our spiritual foes, and subdue to Jesus a rebellious world. If a convert on our anxious seats asks what denomination they shall join, we publicly and privately advise and admonish them to read God's word and that only. Upon such a spiritually honest and prayerful examination we have no fears of the result. For verily, (if we are not mistaken) the Baptist will, in God's strength take the world in captivity to Christ by His Word. Jesus and His Apostles pointed out the course we should pursue in that precious Book. We are following His footsteps in company with His Disciples. We have thus saith the Lord for our actions; other denominations have not.

S. G. J.

Your committee to whom was referred the subject of Foreign Missions, report as follows:

More than half of our fellow men are destitute of the Word of Life; they are scarcely aware that there is such a Book as the Bible. Of course they are ignorant of its contents.

A still larger proportion of our race are without a preached Gospel. And yet this is the means which God has ordained, (and Christ commanded) for the salvation of believers. It pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save those that believe. It is as truly the appointment of God, as Baptism or the Lord's Supper. We should view it in the light of a divine ordinance.

We are not, therefore, warranted by scripture in expecting the salvation of the people without preaching. True, every one that calls on the name of the Lord has the promise of salvation, but they cannot call on Him without faith, and they cannot have faith without hearing; nor hearing without preaching. It follows from this that preaching is essential to the salvation of the people. Now, the grand object of Foreign Missions is to send preachers to the ends of the earth, and this noble design is strikingly harmonious with

the Word of God and with the impulses of the renewed heart.

How shall they preach except they be sent! Foreign Missions, therefore, are necessary, in the order of means, to the evangelizing of the heathen. Your Committee are gratified, hence, in being able to report to your body, that the Foreign Mission Board at Richmond, Va., whose object is to send out and support Missionaries in a foreign field, still exists, and call loudly for your sympathies and contributions. We hope a lively interest is felt in this benevolent enterprise by your body; and we cherish the hope that this solicitude will both deepen and widen its influences till it pervades all hearts and exists the energies of all. This enterprise is not only in harmony with a christian spirit, but is carrying out the last command of the Great Head of the Church. "Preach the Gospel to every creature," was His last command; and this command has all the weight of divine authority. Hence, the duty of the Church to whom this authoritative language was addressed, to send out properly qualified ministers, until all nations shall hear, in their own tongue, the wonderful works of God.

E. T. SMYTH, Chairman.

SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT.

"And it came to pass that after three days they found him in the Temple, sitting in the midst of the Doctors both hearing them and asking them questions." Luke 2, 46.

It will be observed that they found Jesus in the Temple, possibly in that department where the Doctors of the Law held their schools of instruction or disputation. He was sitting in the midst of them, not as a catechumen, but as a member of their school, for instruction. In this conversation he not only evinced great wisdom and knowledge, but manifested a desire to increase that wisdom and knowledge, and a readiness to impart whatever information he possessed to others. The Savior here sets an example which it would be well for all to observe and practice. He was not found among those of his age, who are too frequently heedless and indifferent about the acquisition of knowledge. He delighted to be in the company of those from whom he could learn something good. It is a hopeful and promising presage in children to be desirous of obtaining profitable instruction, and it is well pleasing to our Heavenly Father, that the old and middle aged should be zealous to give them the wanted information. Dr. Clarke says: "it was the habit of the Rabbins to meet stately in the Temple, to explain the law and the ceremonies of the Jewish religion to their disciples. Josephus informs us that when he was about fourteen years of age, the Chief Priests and principle men of the city, were constantly coming to him, to be more accurately instructed in all matters relative to the Law. No doubt, many questions were asked and answered by these inquirers for the truth, and it is a conceded fact that even at this day, there is not a more profitable employment, nor a more efficient way of imparting or receiving biblical instruction, than by 'meeting' together, and have a free and full interchange of opinion with reference to the great truths of the Bible."

It is a historical fact that the knowledge of christianity and true religion were kept up among the Jews by assembling the people together, men, women, children and strangers, that they might learn and fear the Lord, and observe and do all the words of the law. In fact it was one of the commands the leader of Israel

gave the people. Doubtless, the principal object had in view was that the children might be instructed in the statutes of the great law giver.

The preaching of the Word from the sacred desk is very seldom done in such manner as to suit the capacity of children; and if it was, it would not be very instructive to those who need something stronger than the mere "milk of the word." In order, then, to meet the wants of all, other modes of instruction are needed, and it is very sure the law promulgated by Moses, was intended and ordained of God to meet the necessity. If the law was right then, it should be observed now; and we know of no means of doing so more effectually, than by the Sunday School system which has been adopted and acted upon by some of the Churches.

But what is a Sunday School? It is not merely the assembling of children together; for had we a thousand children congregated in one place, and no one present competent to instruct them, no good would be accomplished. Moses commanded that men, women, children and strangers should be gathered together, knowing as he doubtless did, that in every community there were some competent to teach, and it was enjoined upon all to hear, that they might learn and fear the Lord our God, that they might be enabled to observe and do all the words of the Law. Every man, woman and child in the realm were included. It is therefore, as manifestly the duty of the parent to attend Sunday School as it is to send the children. It is a well established truth, that in every Sunday School, where fathers, mothers, brothers and sisters attend regularly, that the work of Gospel enlightenment is rendered comparatively easy. Those who have arrived at the full stature of men and women in Christ Jesus, are able to lead the young mind and give it proper direction. It is, obviously, the duty of every member of the Church to exercise whatever gifts God in his mercy has bestowed upon him for the accomplishment of good; and as no better plan has yet been suggested than that presented by the Sunday School system, for the universal exercise of such gifts, it should be his pleasure to attend promptly and regularly, and by the aid of his intellectual capacity and personal influence, endeavor to advance the Redeemer's Kingdom.

It is one of the beauties of the Sunday School, that all may be employed. Those who are not competent to teach can take a place in a class and listen; and we thank God that He has been lavish in bestowing upon his creatures the capacity to sing; and nearly every body can engage in this pleasant and profitable exercise—and, by the way, it is not only a pleasure, but a high duty, to praise God in song. It not only improves, elevates and points heavenward the mind of the child, but it gives fervency and zeal to the Christian heart, and softens the temper and chastens the nature of the impenitent sinner. As remarked by a distinguished Baptist preacher, if there was no other good resulting from Sunday Schools but that of learning children to sing, it would be worthy of all attention.

It is a praiseworthy fact, that the great majority of men in this country are not miserly in the expenditure of means or effort to educate their children, to render them fascinating, and to qualify them for the social enjoyments of the finer circles of society. This is very proper—but after all, the objects obtained reaches not beyond this life. The object of the Sunday School is more elevated. It couples with the effort for intellectual culture the knowledge of God and His Son Jesus Christ. It lifts the soul to the contemplation of the plan of salvation, instructs in the awful and sublime truths of the Bible, and aims to qualify the eternal spirit for the blissful enjoyments of the life to come. Is not the motive sufficient to call forth the zealous effort of every Christian, and induce the organization of a Sunday School in every Church?

It is the duty of every Baptist Church to organize and keep up a Sunday School. In the great majority of the Churches, preaching is had only once a month. Three Sabbaths are not employed in the public worship of God, while perhaps, both parents and children are alike in neglecting to read and study the sacred truths of the Bible. This valuable time ought not to be lost, and would not be, if the Churches would organize themselves into a Sunday School—covenant to gather to attend punctually, and be willing to discharge whatever duty devolves upon them to further its interests and usefulness.

It is stated that in one of the Virginia Associations, composed of thirty nine Churches, they now have, under their management, no less than forty one Sunday Schools. An article appeared recently, in the Biblical Recorder, giving an account of a 4th of July Sunday School celebration, had in a Church, near Louisville, Ky., in which three Sunday Schools were engaged, and all of them had been organized and sustained by that single Church. It may be, that no one of them was large as to numbers, but if the neighborhoods were engaged they were fulfilling their function as well and perhaps better than larger ones in more populous neighborhoods, towns and cities, where it is too frequently the case that numbers of children are untaught, and, if they would be, competent teachers unemployed. A good Sunday School does not consist in mere numbers, but in the faithfulness and promptitude with which each member of it discharges his duty.

There is no more pleasing employment than that of S. School exercises. Every body loves children—especially good Sunday School children. The Saylor loved them—it is therefore, Christ-like to love them. He suffered them to come unto him; and shall we not take pleasure in teaching them the truths of the Bible, that each one, like Timothy, may from a child know the Holy Scriptures, so that in age they may be "thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

It is said however that while Sunday Schools are practicable in towns and cities; they are impracticable in most of the country Churches; and just here, says Rev. B. Manly, Jr., in discussing this subject, "we are met by the important fact that at least four-fifths of the Baptist Churches are in the country. It may that some will deplore this. But I should like to know why we are to deplore the fact that our strength is where the strength of the nation is—that we prevail most among those who are characteristically and justly denominated the bone and sinew of the land—that we have particular and favorable access to those very classes upon whom the fate of the nation depends. For it is very clear that the character of the rural population—who are the great majority—is the character of the country. I rather rejoice if God has appointed to us, as a denomination, the beautiful and fertile valleys, with their teeming agricultural population, as the special field of religious influence, in which we are called to operate." It is true, the field of labor is not so compact, but we reach the hearts of that class of people who are more likely to be influenced by the truths of the Bible, for it is said, and we believe it, that the country is better suited to religious training than cities and towns. Let us then, accept the position, which it seems God in his providence has assigned us, and operate with that zeal and energy which will be well pleasing in his sight.

It need not be said that the necessary books cannot be obtained. Every neighborhood has them. Nothing is absolutely needed but Bibles and hymn books, and some small catechisms for young children, and if a half a dozen or a dozen families will take the Bibles and hymn books they now have; meet at a given place every Sunday, with the determination not to become weary in well doing, and give and receive instruction by asking and answering questions touching the Holy Scriptures, they at once have a Sunday School; and on word for it, it will soon become one of interest and usefulness.

Although it is a conceded fact that the Sunday School has proven, by absolute trial, to be one of the most efficient agencies for the spread of the Gospel, yet it is stated by the very best authority, that not fifteen per cent of the professed followers of Christ, are engaged in Sunday School labors; and even here in the Coosa River Association, composed of twenty one Churches, there are not more than a half dozen Baptist Sunday Schools in existence. Brethren, this ought not to so be. Let the members of the Churches engage, with energy in the work, and exert their intellectual capacity and whatever attractive influences they may possess to build up and sustain the Sunday School system which has already been inaugurated.

We thank God that the right spirit is beginning to pervade the hearts of our brethren and sisters, and we entertain a lively hope, that by the next meeting of this body, we shall have a score of S. Schools to report, within our jurisdiction.

E. T. SMYTHE, Chairman.

REPORT ON DOCUMENTS.

Your committee on documents would respectfully report that they have examined the documents brought before them, and find in the letter from the Blue Eye church, that New Hope church has refused to adopt the advice of the Association, as recommended in the report on documents last year; hence the Blue Eye church has withdrawn her fellowship from the New Hope church.

As an elaborate report was made by your committee on documents last year, advising those churches what course they should pursue, your committee feel that nothing new could be reported.

We would earnestly recommend to the Blue Eye Church the reconsidering of their action withdrawing their fellowship from the New Hope church, provided the New Hope church adopts the above course. Your committee would recommend to the Association the postponement of any action for one year, with the hope that this matter may be satisfactorily settled.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

O. WELCH, Chairman.

REPORT ON DOMESTIC MISSIONS.

This subject has been so repeatedly and forcibly brought before your honorable body, from time to time, in the form of Reports and Missionary sermons, as to be sufficient to establish the fact, that it is the duty of Churches to give every aid in their power to propagate the Gospel. It is, therefore, only to be suggested in this report, that a plan so urged, which, if received and acted upon by the friends of Missions, will prove a more sure and substantial means of carrying on under the blessing of God, this Heavenly work.

It is evidently true from the plain teachings of the Bible, that there should be no standing still, in view of the great responsibilities which are daily resting upon us as an Association of Baptist Churches. Indeed there is no standing still. We are either retrograding, or going forward, in propagating Gospel truth. Good or evil ever has the benefit of every motion.

It is proposed, as the sure and substantial plan, that the Pastors and Deacons of the Churches, respectively, begin, and carry on the work of raising money for Missionary purposes at home. This idea is offered, upon the supposition, that the Pastor and Deacons of a church, know better the money condition of the Church and congregation than a stranger travelling through the country; and also, that they know better the time at which such an object should be presented to the people. Since, to get money is the object of an agent of the Board, he often fails in it, because the people he is visiting is not prepared to meet even their convictions of duty. The time and place,

both, frequently operate against him in his work, when, if the Pastor and Deacons would take it in hand and let discreetly, both make both contribute greatly to a success. Let the Churches, then, under this operation, make their contributions and send them to the Association.

Let prayers in earnestness be offered that the work at once commence. Let us resolve into our hearts the spirit expressed by the Apostle Paul, when he wrote to the Church at Corinth, as follows: "Now perform the doing of it; that as there was a readiness to will so there may be a performance; also out of that which ye have: 2nd Cor. 8. 4."

Are we not willing and ready to make a sacrifice, in trying to establish and carry on this work, remembering the admonition of Paul again: "He which soweth sparingly, shall reap also sparingly, and he which soweth beautifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give, not grudgingly, or of necessity; for God loveth a cheerful giver: 2nd Cor. 9. 6 & 7."

Respectfully submitted,

WM. C. MYNATT, Chairman.

RESOLVED, That we recommend Pastors supplying Churches in our midst to preach, at least once a year, and that a collection be then taken up.

F.

COLORED MEMBERSHIP.

Your committee who were appointed at the last session to consider our relations with the colored membership of our church, beg to report that they do not propose to discuss the subject, but will suggest that this body advise the churches to maintain, as far as practicable, the relations that have hitherto existed between our churches and this class of our membership, especially in those churches where the colored membership is small in numbers; they should be kindly counseled to continue their connection with the whites. And in all cases where they remain in this connection, we should do what we can, consistently with other duties, to have the gospel preached to them, and to give them all suitable instruction and encouragement. In churches, where their numbers are larger, and where they manifest a prudent desire to separate from the whites and establish churches of their own, we think it better not to attempt to hinder them, but allow them to go in peace; while we should still strive to maintain a good influence over them by aiding them in the work of organizing and giving them instruction in the nature and policy of Baptist churches, and thus the better prepare them to keep up an independent existence; and thus, also, perpetuate unity of faith and kindly relations. In such cases we would advise them to select pastors from the ministers of the same country, and our feelings and views ought to be such, that the minister who becomes their pastor, will not thereby lose cast among his brethren.

In the present state of illiteracy and demoralization among the colored people, we think our churches should be most careful in selecting men to preach with great caution. Yet, where men of sound piety, and promise can be found among them, we should not hesitate to license them, and in such cases our pastors and many of our brethren could and ought to do the good

work of teaching Bible truth and simplifying to them the faith of our denomination, and also by teaching them to read that they may go in and out before the brethren of his color intelligently.

We think also that we should encourage the colored people in their efforts to educate their rising children.

These things, if not done by us, will be done by others, whose very existence among us will be odious, and whose influence will be pernicious.

J. J. D. RENFROE, Chairman.

REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE.

Your committee on finance beg leave to report cash received from the churches for minutes, one hundred and fifty-one dollars and seventy cents.

By collection on Sabbath morning for Domestic Missions.	\$151.70.
By collection on Monday for Foreign Missions.	\$62.05.
	\$63.00.

Respectfully submitted,

J. K. ELLIOTT, Chairman.

H.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

C. R. CROSS, Treasurer, In account with Coosa River Association, Dr.

1865, Sept. To cash rec'd of Finance Committee; Minute Fund, 108.48.

Coosa River Association to C. R. CROSS, Cr.

1865.—Dec. 8.—By cash paid F. M. Allan for Minutes and Clerk's Fees, 108.48.

TABLE OF THE CHURCHES.

CHURCHES.	WORTH.	LOCATION.	CHURCH CLERKS.	Baptized.	Rec'd by letters.	Restored.	Disced. Letter.	Disced.	Deaths.	Total.	Minutes.
Calhoun,		Shelby,	W. W. Lamb,	11	4	3	10	2	1	127	85.00
Oxford,		"	W. O. Wright,	15	2	2	15	2	1	137	10.00
Madaga,		Oxford,	W. Manna,	0	0	0	0	0	0	73	4.00
"		Lincoln,	John A. Hall,	27	13	1	8	6	1	172	5.60
"		Eastboga,	W. F. Kennedy,	20	13	2	6	2	1	108	8.00
"		Blue Eye,	A. S. Achor,	6	3	1	1	0	0	81	5.00
"		Talladega,	J. H. Joiner,	14	73	0	24	9	1	190	10.70
"		Talladega,	J. B. Wood,	20	4	0	13	1	1	95	10.00
"		Albany,	T. M. Allen,	3	1	0	21	2	0	63	5.00
"		"	S. Moore,	32	3	0	3	1	0	312	26.00
"		"	A. Williams,	16	1	1	10	0	0	112	10.00
"		Sylacauga,	W. B. Shawan,	2	2	0	7	0	0	169	11.75
"		Kynolga,	T. J. Morris,	6	3	0	1	0	0	39	3.00
"		Fayetteville,	J. M. Grad,	4	3	0	1	3	0	54	8.00
"		Fayetteville,	Peter W. W.	14	3	0	0	5	0	35	5.00
"		Greenville,	A. W. Vance,	27	0	1	2	4	0	94	4.00
"		"	P. P. Clanton,	49	14	1	40	2	3	119	3.00
"		Kelly's Creek,	J. H. Posey,				4			33	2.00
"		Harperville,	R. A. Kilde,	1			11			111	7.00
"		"	W. H. Mallory,	11						62	2.00
"		"	D. F. Weaver,	7						288	5.00

ABSTRACT

OF THE

MEETING OF THE ANNUAL SESSION

TO THE

SOUTHERN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

AT

WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA, TALLADEGA CO., ALA.

September 17th, 18th & 19th, 1864.

The Introductory Service was preached by Rev. Wm. McCain.
The Association was organized by the election of Rev. James A. Collins,
Secretary and Father as Clerk.
Mr. James Collins was received into the membership of the Association.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

The Committee on Foreign Missions, Bible Cause, Sabbath Schools,
Education, Home, Woman's Missions; also the Report of the
Circular Letter were read and adopted.
\$25.00 and Fifty Dollars were raised by the Association to com-
memorate to be erected in memory of Elder JORDAN WILLIAMS; and
a subscription adopted, as well as an obituary which had been
published in the S. W. Baptist which was adopted and ordered to be re-printed.
Rev. C. McWarr was elected to preach the Introductory Sermon at
the next session; Rev. James A. Collins, Alternate.
The Committee on Education were appointed to report at the next session.
The Committee on the Greek Church Shelby County on Saturday be-
fore the next session in 1865.